

UKRAINE

Situation report No.33 as of 27 March 2015



OCHA



This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 21 March 2015 – 27 March 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 3 April.

Highlights

- Delivery of humanitarian aid is expected to significantly decline in several critical Clusters as funding continues to remain seriously low: only 16 percent of the USD 316 required for 2015 has been funded or pledged.
- Recent dismissal of key Government representatives at national as well as regional levels with further possibility of changes in Government structure puts additional pressure in ability to provide timely humanitarian assistance in a coordinated manner.
- Incidents related to unexploded ordnance continue to claim lives. Mine and unexploded ordnance / remnants of war contamination remain a major issue.
- OCHA met with de-facto authorities Donetsk to discuss technical modalities to improve delivery of humanitarian aid.



Children near school in Slavyansk
Photo: (c) UNICEF/Ukraine/2015/Zmey

1.17 million registered IDPs

Source: Ministry of Social Policy

Situation Overview

As humanitarian needs continue to rise, a series of developments in Government over the past week are likely to impact on humanitarian issues and the ability to provide assistance. On 23 March, based upon an official investigation related to corruption, the Head of State Fiscal Service Mr. Gordienko, his first deputy Mr. Khomenko and deputy Mr. Makarenko, were all dismissed. Kyiv prosecutor's office has launched a criminal investigation related to custom clearance of goods at the borders. This could have an impact on social benefits and payments to IDPs and vulnerable groups. On 24 March, President Poroshenko signed a decree on resignation of Mr. Kolomoyskiy, Head of Dnipropetrovsk State Administration. Additionally, on 25 March, during a broadcast of cabinet meeting in Kyiv, Mr. Bochkovskiy, Head of the State Emergency Service (SES) and his First Deputy Mr. Stoyetsky were publicly arrested based upon allegations of corruption. At the same time, by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, all heads of SES regional departments were dismissed. At this time, the impact of these actions is unknown, though this is one of the main agencies working with IDPs and humanitarian aid.

The issue of contamination by mines, remnants of war and unexploded ordnance in conflict-affected areas continues to be of increasing concern. Cases of UXO/mine-related incidents are recorded almost on daily basis. On 25 March a passenger bus driving from Government-controlled town of Avdiivka (Donetsk Oblast) to the city of Horlivka (controlled by the armed groups) tripped a mine on a byroad. The Government alleges that the driver wanted to bypass the checkpoint of Ukrainian forces. Four passengers (all women) were killed and 19 wounded.

Full accounts on casualties during the most recent escalation of hostilities (mid-January–mid-February) are still pending. Overall, since the beginning of the conflict in mid-April 2014 and until 27 March 2015, at least 6,083 people were documented as killed and 15,397 as wounded in the conflict area¹.

As of 23 March, the MoSP reports 1,177,748 registered IDPs across the country. According to UNHCR, as of 26 March, the total number of Ukrainians who have sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighboring countries now stands at 763,632 including 625, 470 in Russia and 80,909 in Belarus.

Since being enacted in January, the Temporary Order has not only limited the freedom of movement for civilians, but also significantly impeded access of much needed humanitarian aid, namely food and medicine and construction materials. Given all of the complexities around humanitarian access, OCHA called a meeting with key humanitarian partners to explore operational solutions for dealing with bureaucratic impediments. The result is a set of recommendations, a 'one-stop-shop for procedures' that will be presented to the GoU. The recommendations include recognition of humanitarian staff IDs, and the creating of additional crossing points. The hope is that the government will endorse the proposal across all ministries, simplifying procedures.

Funding

As of 27 March, donors funded or pledged around USD 51 million to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), or 16 percent of the USD 316 million required for 2015.

Lack of funding for HRP is expected to result in significant impact in overall operation of some critical clusters. Due to inconsistent or no funding, the Food Security Cluster expects around 80,000 individuals with no access to Cash and Voucher activities, whereas food parcel support will have to be ceased in Non-Government Controlled Areas. At the same time, Health Cluster members are continuing to run their operations using limited internal funding mechanisms with no hard or soft pipelines in near sight, thus leading to potential decrease in both operations and flow of life-saving assistance. Similar situation is observed in WASH, where due to limited funding (only 2% of HRP WASH activities funded); some critical water and hygiene needs, increasing on an hourly basis remain to be met. Identical situation with lack of funding and potential negative consequences to response operations can be seen in other clusters.

OCHA records all humanitarian contributions through its Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Please register your contributions by emailing fts@un.org or through the online contribution form at fts.unocha.org.

Humanitarian Response

According to OSCE, a convoy with a total of 82 vehicles from Russian Federation crossed the Donetsk Border Crossing Point on 26 March 2015 to reportedly deliver an in-kind humanitarian aid.



Livelihoods and Early Recovery (cluster coordinator: Inita Paulovica, Inita.Paulovica@undp.org)

Needs:

- According to latest Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) data, jobs were most cut in Donetsk oblast. Data also confirm that the situation with pension payments remains dramatic in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, meaning that retired persons remain one of the most vulnerable groups in terms of livelihoods in affected areas.
- Electricity is lacking in 33 localities of Donetsk oblast (25,000 residents).

Response:

- Legal support was provided to 55 IDPs on employment and to 12 on business registration (in Kyiv). 15 jobs were created (through supporting the restoration of business activities). Livelihoods and Early Recovery Cluster also provided support in getting employment for 10 IDPs in Lviv Oblast.
- In addition, eight IDPs were supported with acquisition of skills and sent to professional trainings in Poland.

¹ This is a conservative estimate of the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) and the World Health Organization based on available official data: casualties of the Ukrainian armed forces as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; and casualties reported by medical establishments of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts: civilians and some members of the armed groups. The HRMU and WHO believe that the actual numbers of fatalities are considerably higher.

- A programme has been initiated in eight regions, that aims to co-finance job creation for IDPs.
- A program to co-finance job creation in eight regions has been initiated. A call for expression of interest to create jobs for IDPs in eight regions was announced (deadline 9 April).
- Electricity was restored in 16 settlements (from 19 to 24 March).

Gaps & Constraints:

- The resolution “On occupied territories” and the law on the special status of selected districts of Donbass have been adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament. Decisions may limit options of response to socio-economic needs of people in non-government controlled territories.
- An electronic system of permits to and from non-governmental controlled territories is being introduced – this may potentially ease the procedure of getting a permit, but may lead to coordination problems in the initial period of implementation.



Education (cluster coordinator: Rekha Das, redas@unicef.org)

Needs:

- Approximately 50 per cent of teachers in Non-Government-Controlled Areas of Luhansk have left for Government-Controlled Areas. Following the halt in payment to social services since September 2014, teachers in Luhansk city received 30-50 per cent of their monthly salary only in October 2014 and in February this year.
- To date, teachers and care givers in educational facilities outside Luhansk have not received any salaries. This will eventually have a serious impact on delivery and quality of education services in the Non-Government Controlled Areas.
- In Luhansk Oblast students (attending schools currently destroyed), have been enrolled to neighboring schools. Many students are in need of support for transportation costs to access schools. Key distribution needs also include education stationary materials for students.
- Mine Risk Education programming is required for children in areas heavily affected by conflict.
- The Director of the Pedagogical Teachers Training Institute highlighted that teachers are suffering from post-traumatic stress. Both teachers and students are in need of psychosocial training and support.
- There are around 7,000 students at their final years of high school in Non-Government-Controlled Areas who need to take part in the final graduation tests.

Response:

- To prevent post-conflict stress and breakdown among IDP teachers, Centre of Practical Psychology and Social Work of Kharkiv Academy of Lifelong Learning organizes trainings and consultations for school psychologists and teachers.
- The distribution of educational kits is ongoing in Kharkiv, Izium of Kharkiv Oblast and Svyatohirsk of Donetsk Oblast.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Establishing a comprehensive overview of children in and out of school in government-controlled areas is challenging as the situation is in flux and not all families register as IDPs.
- Ongoing blockages to commercial transports from government-controlled territories are affecting the delivery of humanitarian aid, including education supplies.
- Partnership opportunities in the education cluster are limited at the moment in Luhansk region. Although some INGOs have done assessments in the area, no many are currently operational.



Emergency Shelter and NFI (cluster coordinator: Igor Chantefor, chantefo@unhcr.org)

Needs:

- Humanitarian needs in Artemivsk city (Donetsk Oblast, GCA) are increasing: people staying in bomb shelters are in need of NFIs (esp. jerry cans) and water.
- In Kamianka and Nikishino villages (Donestk Oblast, NGCA) there are only 50 houses permanently settled as the rest are damaged or destroyed. Other IDPs are commuting to these villages regularly and need shelter support to stay there longer.

Response:

- Cluster partners have assisted in total 3,252 households with multifunctional cash grants. Only 390 households received assistance during the reporting period. Pending for some new round of cash assistance, shelter cluster is compiling Post Distribution Monitoring reports of five organisations.
- Government of Ukraine (GoU) has increased the amount of IDP social assistance to the disabled from UDS 37 to USD 41 and started covering payments from the regular budget ([see Resolution # 95](#)).
- 1,275 households in Government Controlled Areas have received NFI assistance (bedding, heaters, and clothes) during the reporting period. People in Need (PiN) has delivered firewood to 60 households in Sloviansk and distributed ten heaters to Debatsevo, NGCA.
- PiN has rehabilitated two Collective Centres in Solidar and Sviatohirsk (Donetsk Oblast, GCA) providing shelter to 170 IDPs. Cluster partners have provided acute emergency shelter (plastic sheeting and Oriented Strand Board) to 180 households in Popasna of Luhansk and Yasynuvata of Donetsk oblasts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Due to occasional shelling, accessing the locations of need in shelter and NFI support still remains a major constraint.
- Lack of clarity on access passes to the NGCA constrains planning of deliveries.

**Food Security** (cluster coordinator: [Elena Rovaris elena.rovaris@wfp.org](mailto:Elena.Rovaris@wfp.org))**Needs:**

- With the general reduction in fighting, WFP is taking advantage of this relatively calm period to access new areas within Non-Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- In order to continue procurement of additional food parcels for increased distribution to conflict affected individuals who have been cut-off for months, the Food Security Cluster activities must be scaled-up with adequate financial support.
- Further, as a contingency for the possibility of renewed fighting—and a potential full closure of the contact line—food must also be urgently prepositioned within NGCA. For both activities – reaching affected populations now, and establishing contingency stocks for future needs – the access window may not last long.

Response:

- In collaboration with its NGO partners, WFP food parcels have reached 5,930 individuals in the last week. Distributions took place within NGCA of Luhansk, which included Yasenovka, Frumze, Krasnyi Luch, Luhansk city, and others. Distributions of food parcels have also continued in Donetsk city.
- Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) distributed food parcels to 20 IDP families in Dnipropetrovsk oblast (Verkhnyodniprovsk and Dniprovokamyanka). The agency also distributed baby food to 51 IDP families in Kherson (Kherson Oblast) and 157 IDP families in Kharkiv (Kharkiv Oblast).

Gaps & Constraints:

- WFP plans to widen its partnership base, to increase operations in the affected eastern areas. The overall capacities of food actors have been stretched, considering the limited number of partners who have operational access within the above mentioned affected zones.

**Health & Nutrition** (cluster lead: [Dr. Dorit Nitzan, DON@euro.who.int](mailto:Dr.Dorit.Nitzan@euro.who.int); [Patricia Kormoss, kpj@euro.who.int](mailto:Patricia.Kormoss@euro.who.int))**Needs**

- Needs of hospitals in conflict areas are still unmet. This includes the following - in priority order: laboratory reagents and diagnostic supplies, analgesics, oncology medicines, IV fluids, hemodialysis supplies, insulin, cardio-vascular diseases care, anti-infective medicines and vaccines.
- Over the reporting period assessment of the health institutions in Donetsk, Luhansk and Severodonetsk were carried out, including joint assessment with the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#). Preliminary findings indicate need of non-TB drugs, gloves, syringes, disinfectants (Donetsk Tuberculosis Oblast Hospital), laboratory reagents for Donetsk hospitals, anesthetics for Luhansk hospitals, medical supplies for Luhansk narcological dispensary, blood products and sterilization equipment (Rubizhne City Hospital).

Response:

- Over the reporting period ten MEPU (Mobile Emergency Primary Health-care Unit) teams in Mariupol (run by IMC/Greek medical foundation “Hippocrates”) and seven teams in Sieverodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast) Slavyansk, Sviatohirsk (Donetsk Oblast), Kupyansk, Iziurm (Kharkiv Oblast), Zaporizhzhia (Zaporizhzhya Oblast) and Pavlograd of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (run by Ukrainian Red Cross) have provided 1,680 consultations for IDP and residing population. A total 11,382 consultations were conducted since the beginning of MEPU’s work.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Distribution of the state procured medicines to the non-government controlled area is facing legislative constraints.
- IDPs are forced to pay most of the health care services, including costly diagnostic procedures, with their own funds, as Oblast health budgets are still not planned.
- Reportedly morgues on the Donetsk NGCA are experiencing difficulties with dead bodies’ management because of the insufficient capacity of cold rooms.
- Minority IDP groups (Turks, Tatars, Meshetians and Roma) do not have equal access to essential health care services.



Protection (cluster co-coordinators: Christine Goyer, goyer@unhcr.org; Fiona Frazer, ffrazer@ohchr.org) – see also overview

Needs:

- Protection cluster partners in Kharkiv identified that there are no shelters for female survivors of violence (Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Gender-based Violence) and only one in Dnipropetrovsk and there is a need to provide such services for IDPs as well as the local community.
- Protection cluster partners visited several correction facilities in the areas controlled by armed groups, including Enakieve and Michurinska colonies in Horlivka of Donetsk Oblast. The facilities had been heavily shelled and there is a need for humanitarian assistance. In Enakieve the sewage collector was damaged right outside the colony and now poses the risk of water reservoir contamination, which provides water supply for seven settlements in the area.
- The situation of single - elderly persons in small towns and settlements is dire, as many of them have not been identified and this reached neither by local authorities nor by humanitarian partners.
- A new vulnerable group is emerging: the working age couples with children, who have lost their jobs and are not eligible for neither humanitarian aid, nor pension, nor the one-time social benefit from the 'self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic'.

Response:

- Protection cluster and child protection partners are scaling up activities in territories controlled by armed groups, including psychosocial support. The identified priority areas are in Donetsk, Luhansk and Debaltseve cities.
- Training on psychosocial support delivered through a protection cluster partner was expanded to include children in kindergarten as well as their caregivers in Donetsk and Luhansk cities.
- Protection cluster partners conducted a pilot training of district police officers of raion departments of Kharkiv Oblast aimed at building capacities of law enforcement officials. The training focused on legal and psycho-social aspects of addressing cases of domestic violence (including Sexual and Gender-based Violence).
- The GBV sub-cluster Working Group in Kharkiv city developed the content for referral card with available services for Gender-based Violence survivors. This card will be distributed by local partners in Kharkiv city as well as Kharkiv Oblast to ensure wider outreach.

Gaps & Constraints

- Procedure of sharing information on registered IDPs among the government and non-government agencies should be regulated, protecting personal data according to international standards.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (cluster lead: Rudi Luchmann, rluchmann@unicef.org)

Needs:

- As of 25 March, the need for support in WASH is increasing in health institutions, schools, and other social facilities in conflict-affected zones. People in those areas continue to experience shortage of hygiene supplies and interrupted access to water. There is critical need for diapers for elders and disabled in institutions.
- Over the past weekend the Donbass water company carried out a significant amount of repair works to the water supply system. However, new damages still continue limiting the access to water in some locations including Mariupol and surroundings of Donetsk Oblast.
- Vuhledar, Krasnohorivka, and Kurakhove in Donetsk Oblast do not have regular potable water supply.

Response:

Water quality is being monitored, bacteriological and physico-chemical tests have been conducted in different areas from centralized as well as not decentralized water supply networks in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. 22 out of 115 samples did not meet minimum standards, and corrective measures have been taken by the State Sanitary Epidemiological Service of Ukraine (SSES), including chlorination and cleaning of wells. As of today, the complications of water pollution and the relation to current epidemiological situation are not yet defined.

- Bottled water has been distributed to 1,860 people by Cluster partner Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development in Novaidar raion of Luhansk city.
- During the reporting week, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed baby, adult, and family hygiene kits to 1,300 most vulnerable households in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, and Vinnystia cities.
- On 25 March hygiene kits were distributed in Perevalsk town of Luhansk Oblast to 75 children hosted in institutions for children with psychical disabilities and orphans.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access remains a major constraint.
- Limited resources affect the WASH response.



Logistics (cluster lead: Kennet Blixt, kennet.blixt@wfp.org)

Response:

- A revised list of documents required for cargo transport into the NGCAs has been outlined and distributed to all Logistics Cluster participants. The Logistics Cluster is now establishing ways to take on board more of the administrative procedures in order to ease the process for partners.
- As of 25, March, the Logistics Cluster has a Civil /Military liaison based in Donetsk to assist in logistics operations on behalf of the humanitarian community. By end of 27 March a liaison/information officer will also be on the ground to support activities.
- The Logistics Cluster has established two warehouses: one in Dnepropetrovsk, to serve as a staging area for cargo destined for the non-government controlled areas; and one in Donetsk. Interagency transport from Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk is underway.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Staff movement in and out of Donetsk is constrained by the need for two armoured vehicles for each transport and a lack of regular convoys between Donetsk and Kurakhove –towns at the two ends of contact line in Donetsk Oblasts.

Coordination

- On 27 March, an OCHA mission to Donetsk meeting with the de-facto authorities of Donetsk and Donetsk-based Recovery Management Center. Parties discussed the need to ensure sustainable access, improve delivery of humanitarian aid in the area, and minimize bureaucratic restrictions through a transparent information sharing system.

- On 27 March, humanitarian partners in Donetsk conducted regular General Coordination Meeting to discuss on-going humanitarian operations, expansion of organizational presence of additional actors and improvement of information sharing. A specific attention was paid to the emerging issue of mine and unexploded ordnance and possible mine action strategies to be undertaken.
- On 24 March, a General Coordination Meeting (GCM) was held in Dnepropetrovsk. Partners highlighted the need for information support: While some IDPs can get information (road maps) on arrival (at railway stations or in oblast capitals), others, especially in rural areas, lack this information and need contacts of services/departments where they can turn for advice or help in case of an emergency. Partners reported a need for psycho-social assistance, especially for children who have arrived from NGCAs and the conflict zone. The next GCM in Dnepropetrovsk will tentatively be held on 21 April.
- Humanitarian Response website (<http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine>) aims to strengthen information sharing among the humanitarian community in Ukraine and beyond. It is easy to navigate and provides useful overviews of contacts, events/meetings, key documents, maps and infographics, statistics and other operational data. Each cluster has a dedicated page to upload cluster-specific information. OCHA will populate the website over the coming weeks and welcome any suggestions your organization might have to improve layout and contents.

Background on the crisis

In April 2014, armed groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) began to seize buildings and arms. As a result of ongoing fighting between armed groups and government forces, and of events in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people fled their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict spread. Those in parts of Donbas affected by fighting, face imminent security threats due to military activities by all parties to the conflict that are increasingly concentrated in densely populated urban areas. Provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and an upsurge in lawlessness has occurred. Ongoing daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported, despite the 5 September Ceasefire and 19 September nine-point Memorandum agreed in Minsk. Indiscriminate shelling and continued insecurity are placing conflict-affected people and humanitarian actors at risk. An 11 February Minsk II Agreement resulted in general respect to ceasefire. However, tensions and hostilities remain and pose continued insecurity both to local population and the humanitarian actors on the ground.

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